

REMARKS

Overview of the Office Action

Claims 1-5, 8-12 and 16-17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,218,790 (“Jansa”).

Claim 6 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Jansa.

Claims 14 and 15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Jansa in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,641,294 (“Lefebvre”).

Claim 7 has been objected to as depending from a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claim Status

Claims 13 and 18 have previously been canceled.

Claims 5, 6, and 7 have now been canceled.

Claim 1 has been amended.

Claims 1-4, 8-12, and 14-17 remain pending.

Allowable subject matter

Claim 7 has been objected to as depending from a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 7 has been canceled and the allowable subject matter of claim 7 has been incorporated into independent claim 1.

Rejection of claims 1-5, 8-12 and 16-17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

The Office Action states that Jansa teaches all of Applicants’ recited elements.

Independent claim 1 has now been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of dependent claim 7, and is therefore now allowable. This rejection is accordingly now moot.

Dependent claims

Claims 2-5, 8-12 and 16-17, which depend from now allowable independent claim 1, incorporate all of the limitations of independent claim 1 and are therefore also now allowable

Rejection of claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Office Action further states that Jansa teaches all of Applicants' recited elements. Claim 6 has been canceled, and this rejection is now moot.

Rejection of claims 14 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Office Action states that the combination of Jansa and Lefebvre teaches all of Applicants' recited elements.

As mentioned above, independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of dependent claim 7 and is, therefore, now allowable.

Claims 14 and 15, which depend from now allowable independent claim 1, incorporate all of the limitations of independent claim 1 and are, therefore, also now allowable.

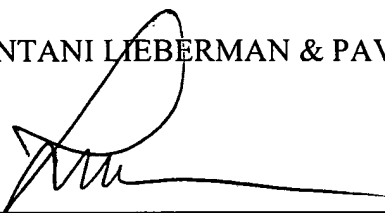
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and withdrawal of all rejections, and allowance of all pending claims, are respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner have any comments, questions, suggestions, or objections, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned in order to facilitate an early resolution of any outstanding issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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